Many that have at times made mone to me,
Therefore he hates me.
Sal. I am ſure the Duke will never grant
This forfeiture to hold.
Ant. The Duke cannot deny the courſe of Law:
For the Commodity that ſtrangers have
With us in *Venice*, if it be denyed,
Will much impeach the juſtice of the ſtate,
Since that the Trade and Profit of the Citie
Conſiſteth of all Nations. Therefore go,
Theſe griefes and loſſes hath ſo bated me
That I ſhall hardly ſpare a pound of fleſh
To morrow, to my bloudy Creditor.
Well Iaylor on, pray God *Baſſanio* come
To ſee me pay his debt, and then I care not. *Exeunt.*

Enter Portia, Nerriſſa, Lorenzo, Jeſſica, *and a man of* Portia's.

Lor. Madam, although I ſpeak it in your preſence,
You have a noble and a true conceit
Of gold-like amitie, which appeares moſt ſtrongly
In bearing thus the abſence of your Lord.
But if you knew to whom you ſhew this honour,
How true a Gentleman you ſend reliefe,
How deere a Lover of my Lord your husband,
I know you would be prouder of the worke,
Then cuſtomary bounty can enforce you.
Por. I never did repent for doing good,
Nor ſhall not now: for in companions
That do converſe and waſt the time together,
Whoſe ſoules do beare an equall yoke of love,
There muſt be needs a like proportion
Of lyniaments, of manners, and of ſpirit;
Which makes me thinke that this *Anthonio*
Being the boſome Lover of my Lord,
Muſt needs be like my Lord. If it be ſo,
How little is the coſt I have beſtowed

In

In purchaſing the ſemblance of my ſoule;
From out the ſtate of helliſh cruelty:
This comes too neere the praiſing of my ſelfe.
Therefore no more of it. heere other things
Lorenſo I commit into your hands,
The husbandry and mannage of my houſe,
Untill my Lords returne: for mine own part
I have toward heaven breath'd a ſecret vow,
To live in prayer and contemplation,
Onely attended by *Nerriſſa* here,
Untill her husband and my Lords returne.
There is a Monaſtery two miles off,
And there we will abide. I do deſire you
Not to deny this impoſition,
The which my Love, and ſome neceſſity
Now layes upon me.
Loren. Madame, with all my heart,
I ſhall obey you in all faire commands.
Por. My people do already know my mind,
And will acknowledge you and *Ieſſica*
In place of Lord *Baſſanio* and my ſelfe.
So fare you well till we ſhall meet again.
Lor Faire thoughts and happy houres attend on
Ieſſ. I wiſh your Ladiſhip all hearts content.
Por. I thank you for your wiſh, and am well pl
To wiſh it back on you: fare you well *Ieſſica.* E
Now *Balthaſer*, as I have ever found thee honeſt t
So let me find thee ſtill: take this ſame letter,
And uſe thou all th'endevour of a man,
In ſpeed to *Mantua*, ſee thou render this
Into my cousins hand Doctor *Belario*,
And look what notes and garments he doth give
Bring them I pray thee with imagin'd ſpeed
Unto the Traiect to the common Ferry
Which Trades to *Venice*; waſte no time in word
But get thee gone, I ſhall be there before thee.
Baltha. Madam, I go with all convenient ſpeed
Por. Come on *Nerriſſa*, I have worke in hand